

The Gas War In the Quaker City

REFORM and gas are in the air in Philadelphia. The two are inextricably mixed up. With so much gas in the air there was bound to be an explosion, and the latter has so shaken up the Quaker City that it has hardly been able as yet to recognize itself. The shock has broken the grip of the gas magnates on the city government, and the effect of the jar has been felt throughout all municipal departments.

The immediate cause of this remarkable episode was the attempt of the United Gas Improvement company to secure a new lease of the gas works owned by the city. The central figures in the affair are Mayor John Weaver, who opposed the proposed lease, and Thomas Dolan, president of the gas company. Both are interesting and picturesque characters in their way. The United Gas Improvement company is not simply a Philadelphia affair. It is said to have a monopoly of lighting in thirty to forty of the most important municipalities of the United States. It employs an army of clerks and officials, is housed in one of the finest office buildings in the Quaker City and owes its success to its close identification with the powers that be in the political world. It has been reckoned one of the most powerful corporations in the land, and its genius is Thomas Dolan.

The present lease of the city gas works to the United Gas Improvement company is for thirty years, the first ten years of which will expire in 1907. When the proposal to negotiate a new lease was made Mayor Weaver announced himself in favor of postponing consideration of the question until that year. But the gas company deemed the time opportune for obtaining terms more advantageous to itself. Consequently it urged the adoption by the two bodies composing the city council of a resolution giving over the gas works to the company for seventy-five years. The sum of \$25,000,000 was to be paid by the company for this lease in installments between the date of the passage of the act and 1907. The



MAYOR JOHN WEAVER.

lease provided that the price of gas should remain as at present—\$1 per 1,000 feet—until 1911 and then be reduced in successive years until it should reach the price of 85 cents in 1936 and from that time until 1980 be 80 cents. It has been estimated that the ultimate profits of the gas company, according to these terms, would be about \$1,000,000,000. The council passed the resolution making the lease amid great uproar and cries from spectators of "Thieves!" "Robbers!" and "Shame, shame!" Mayor Weaver announced that he would veto the resolution, but the leaders of the dominant political organization and the representatives of the gas company said that they could checkmate him by securing its passage over his veto. The mayor engaged the eminent New York lawyer and former secretary of war, Elihu Root, Republican, and former Judge James Gay Gordon, Democrat, of Philadelphia, as his special counsel. He broke completely with the political organization headed by Israel Durham and went to work to reorganize the city government. When the heads of the most important departments would not hand him their resignations he removed them, making ad interim appointments to their places, knowing that the council would not confirm his appointees. As the term of the mayor has two years more to run he is not compelled to consider the matter of a re-election, should he desire it, for some time. The ministers of the city have been praying that he might be influenced to lead in the work of reform.

The mayor's chief opponent, President Dolan of the gas company, is a little man, weighing about 100 pounds, but of remarkable energy and determination. Though the methods of his company are denounced, it is admitted that his virtues as an employer are many and he is known for his kindness and generosity to his employees. Mayor Weaver is of English birth and forty-two years of age. It is said he is the first Englishman to become the executive of a large American city.

Climate and Crop Bulletin.
Portland, June 26.—The weather during the past week has been quite favorable for the growing crops. In some few localities late sown wheat and oats would be benefited by more rain, and owing to dry weather grass on the lowland ranges in the interior counties is turning brown, but it is still green and abundant in the foothills and mountains. Stock generally is in excellent condition. Fall wheat is filling nicely and fall barley is ripening and will soon be ready to cut. Spring wheat continues to

Early potatoes are in the market. Cherries are ripe and the crop is below the average, being good in some localities and almost a failure in others. Strawberry picking is nearly finished, and the crop turned out to be below the average in quantity, but about as usual in quality.
"U. S. Department of Agriculture, Climate and Crop Bulletin of the Weather Bureau, Oregon Section, for the week ending June 19, 1905."
EDWARD A. BEALS,
Section Director, Portland, Ore.

NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE.
The A. & C. R. R. will resume regular Summer Schedule of Trains on Saturday, June 24.
Effective Saturday, June 24, the A. & C. R. R. will inaugurate its usual summer schedule of trains between Portland, Astoria and points on Seaside division and Ft. Stevens branch, and commencing with that date the Portland-Seaside flyer will leave Union depot every Saturday at 2:30 P. M., taking place of the

LOW EXCURSION RATES.
Via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.
From Chicago to Asbury Park, N. J., and return, \$21.35. Tickets good going June 29, 30, July 1 and 2, valid for return until August 31 by extension.
Stop-over at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington.
Through sleeping cars to Asbury Park, Baltimore and return, \$18.
Tickets good going July 2, 3 and 4.
Valid for return until August 31, by extension. Stop-over at Washington. The only line that operates through

PRUNING SHRUBS.
Spring and Summer Cutting are past.
Spring and summer pruning—that is, cutting out the flowering sprays and misplaced and superfluous growths of shrubs such as the forsythias, nine-bark, Japan quince, bridal wreath, Spiraea thunbergi, S. lanceolata and S. Van Houttei, lilacs, deutzias, diervillas and philadelphuses when they are done blooming—is good cultural practice if the operator thoroughly understands the operation.
It is well understood that summer pruning has a more or less weakening effect on woody plants, so that if severe thinning of the branches should be resorted to among the last named subjects in the growing season it will certainly impair vitality. Our advice is to cut very moderately the flowering sprays that plainly impede and prevent the development of the young growths, and, if a mass of congested shoots are being projected where they are plainly too thick, thin some of them out.
The completion of the work can intelligently be prosecuted in winter and all old flowering sprays, gnarled, diseased branches, watery sprouts and congested shoots thinned out, being careful to preserve the natural outlines of the shrubs, free and flowering.
Shrubs with branching habits like the euonymuses, oxocordias, bush honeysuckles, buckthorns, barberries and caraganas, that do not produce large flowering sprays, require a little thinning out of the branches where they are dense and thick and where they rub and cross each other.—Gardening.

Completely Snowed Under!

The opening day of our Undermuslin Sale was a marked success in every particular. Never was there gathered within the walls of an Astoria store such a vast collection of

BEAUTIFUL UNDERMUSLINS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS AT SUCH REMARKABLE LOW PRICES

Never within the history of Astoria was there a more eager and enthusiastic crowd of bargain seekers in attendance at a special sale. Well, there is a reason for it. The Public has learned that this store's advertising is accurate, its bargains real. Yesterday's list of bargains holds good today. Come while you have the opportunity. You will find bargains enumerable here awaiting you.

<p>Lot 4 59c</p>	<p>Lot 1, 12 1/2c</p> <p>Lot 1 contains a large assortment of children's drawers and waists, also ladies' corset covers. Not one garment in the lot would sell in regular way for less than 20 to 25c.</p> <p>While they last, take as many as you like at each, only 12 1/2c</p>	<p>Lot 2, 19c</p> <p>Lot 2 is composed of children's waists, drawers and skirts, and ladies' corset covers. Garments that sell anywhere at 30 to 40c.</p> <p>Yours Tuesday and Wednesday, as many as you like, at the extremely low price of each, only 19c</p>	<p>Lot 3, 29c</p> <p>Lot 3 is where the bargains really begin. Corset covers, Drawers, Chemise, and Gowns are all included in this lot and not one garment that could be bought at another time for less than 50c. While they last, your choice, one or as many as you like at each, only 29c</p>
<p>Lot 1 12 1/2c</p>	<p>Lot 5 79c</p>	<p>Lot 2 .19c</p>	<p>Lot 4, 59c</p> <p>Lot 4 the biggest and probably the best bargain of the entire lot. Contains every article of Lingerie that a woman wears. Daintily trimmed gowns and Chemises. Corset covers and drawers of all descriptions. Not one in the lot that you would not be willing to pay \$1.00 for. While they last, you may take your pick at each only 59c</p>
<p>Lot 3 29c</p>	<p>Lot 6, \$1.18.</p> <p>Lot 6, the most beautiful of all, is composed of the very finest Nainsook Gowns, Chemise, Drawers, Skirts and Corset Covers that are worth from \$2 to \$3.50. All go alike at the one price. A suitable description is impossible. They surpass in beauty and workmanship anything we have ever seen.</p> <p>Your choice, each \$1.18</p>	<p>Lot 5, 79c</p> <p>Lot 5 is similar to lot 4, only that laces and embroidery are used in greater profusion. The material used in the making is all of the very best and the trimmings are beautiful to behold. If you'd really get the full benefit of this sale, you'll take a few garments from the lot home with you. Your choice for 79c</p>	<p>Remembering the difficulties we have undergone on sale days in the past, we engaged a sufficient corps of helpers to assure prompt attention to all purchasers.</p>

ASTORIA'S GREATEST STORE The FOARD & STOKES CO. ASTORIA'S GREATEST STORE

make satisfactory progress, and oats, although not in so good condition as spring wheat, look promising. The graminis is disappearing, and no great damage has been done by this pest. Hayling has begun and will become general in a week or two. Much clover, vetch and alfalfa has already been secured, and the hay crop generally promises to be an average one, if not better. Hops are arming and show considerable improvement since last report. The yards are well cultivated, but on account of missing hills and uneven growth yields are expected to be less than usual.

Will Attend Convention.
County Judge Trenchard, Road Master Frye, County Commissioners Larson and Clark, and A. Brix will leave this morning for Portland, to be present at the Good Roads convention, which will convene at the Lewis and Clark exposition, this week.

Correction.
The baseball score 4 to 4 for Sunday's game, Skamokawa vs. Uniontown was erroneously reported in yesterday's Astorian. The correct figures were 19 to 5, in favor of Skamokawa.

regular evening train from Portland on Saturdays, the latter train being abandoned for the summer.
Under this new schedule, local trains between Astoria, Seaside and intermediate points will be operated as in previous summers, leaving Astoria 8:15 A. M., 11:30 and 5:50 P. M. daily and 5:55 P. M. Saturday only. Trains will leave Seaside 6:15, and 9:40 A. M., and 2:30 and 5 P. M. daily.

Charles Ring, formerly employed at H. Eckstrom's, returned from a trip to Portland yesterday.

Send for circulars to Peter Haway, Pacific Coast Agent, San Francisco.
B. N. Austin, G. P. A., Chicago
Consult your nearest ticket agent for details.
It fills the arteries with rich, red blood. Makes new flesh and healthy men and women. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Frank Hart, druggist.
Col. Adair drove over from Warrenton yesterday.

A HANDSOME BLACKBERRY.
Of Excellent Quality and a Favorite Market Berry.
Points of superiority of the Mercereau blackberry are claimed to be as follows: Extreme hardiness, larger size and greater productiveness, less tendency to turn red after being picked than Snyder and delicious quality. The Mercereau was named by Professor L.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING.
To harmoniously arrange trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and at the same time adjust them to the contour of the place, to the architecture of the buildings and to the convenience of the walks and drives, is the aim of the landscape gardener. Every successful attempt to adorn a city lot, a suburban place or a park has a valuable influence upon the community in which it is situated. It furnishes an object lesson which others will attempt to follow.

CUTTINGS AND GRAFTS
If you wish to succeed nothing is too much trouble.
Small fruits have a way of adapting themselves to almost every soil provided it is not too rocky, too shallow or too wet.
Borders of irregular outlines around the margins of grounds should be so made as to be agreeable from every point of view.
It will not usually pay to keep the strawberry bed after it has borne two good crops. Better plow it up and plant cabbage or something else.
Doubtless after the rose the carnation is the most useful of flowers, its keeping qualities and the low price for which it can be bought bringing it in contact with the greatest number of people.
Black rot of the grape is difficult to control. Spray with copper sulphate or strong bordeaux before the buds open and again just before and after blossoming.
In the later sprayings of the peach for leaf curl use diluted bordeaux mixture.
Whale oil or common laundry soap dissolved in water (a pound to six to ten gallons) may be used as a contact insecticide against plant lice and a number of other soft bodied insects.
The Astoria High School commencement exercises will be held at Fishers' opera house tomorrow night.